

that this response be accepted as a bona fide effort to meet any potential response requirements outstanding and due in the above captioned matter.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

IN THE CLAIMS:

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

(Version with marking to show changes made)

1. (cancelled) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants with a locking bar (R) supported slidable perpendicular to a removal direction of the denture, wherein the locking bar is guidable by the force of a spring (F) as seen from the removal direction of the denture under regions of a fixedly seated element (S) formed at a tooth crown or a tooth implant and wherein the locking bar with its parts effective for the locking is removable again out of these regions against this spring force by actuation of a pushbutton (D) acting upon the locking bar (R), characterized in that a locking device (A) is provided for the locking bar (R), wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) by a spring force acting in the direction of the shift motion of the locking bar (R) or by the motion of the locking bar (R) itself such that the locking device effects slight lifting of the

connection element in removal direction of the denture through limit stop faces.

2. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim one, characterized in that after the actuation of the pushbutton (D), a spring force acting in the direction of the shift motion of the locking bar (R) maintains the connection element in a slightly lifted position in the removal direction of the denture by the cooperation of limit stop faces and guide faces.

3. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking bar (R) and the locking device (A) are guided in a casing (G, G1/G2), wherein the casing is attachable by at the denture frame, wherein the recess in the denture frame is pre-formable with auxiliary parts out of plastic, metal or ceramic for receiving the casing and wherein the connection to the denture frame is produceable by a dovetail shaped extension (20).

4. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking bar (R) and the locking device (A) are guided in corresponding recesses directly in the denture frame.

5. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking device (A) forms a self-contained, movably supported part which is placeable into motion upon actuation of the

pushbutton (D) and which effects a slight lifting of the connection element in pullout direction by pushing of a limit stop face (11,24,32,36) at the fixedly seated element (S).

6. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 5, characterized in that the locking device (A) in the casing (G), in the denture body or in the locking bar (R) is supported slidable at least along a closing-basal direction or supported rotatable around an axis disposed perpendicular to the direction of motion of the locking bar (R), wherein a falling out in a basal direction is prevented by limit stops for example at the casing (G) or at the bolt (B).

7. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the force of the at least one spring (F) is directly transferable, wherein the spring (F) is attached at the locking device (A) or indirectly transferable onto the locking device (A) upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) and after releasing the pushbutton (D).

8. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the motion of the locking bar (R) is directly transferable or is indirectly transferable through a bolt (B) onto the locking device (A) upon actuation of the pushbutton (D).

9. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that upon actuation of the pushbutton (D), both the force of the at least one spring (f) as well as by way of limit stop faces (12, 13, 37, 38) the motion of the locking bar (R) are transferable onto the same bolt (B) and through further limit stop faces (10,35) onto the locking device (A).

10. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking device (A) together with the locking bar (R) forms a common part, wherein the common part is supported limited rotatable around an axis disposed in the direction of the shifting motion in addition to a shiftable support and wherein upon actuation of the pushbutton D the common part is placed into rotation by the co-action of the limit stop faces and guide faces and wherein a slight lifting of the connection element in pullout direction is effected by pushing of one limit stop face (45) at the fixedly seated element (S).

11. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking device (A) holds the locking bar (R), after the locking bar has been moved upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) against the force of at least one spring (F), in this position upon removal of the denture by the co-action of limit stop faces (6,14,25,26,29,33,39,40,46,47) and releases upon insertion of the denture based on the pushing of limit stop faces (11,24,32,36) of the locking device

(A) again at the fixedly seated element (S), such that the locking bar (R) can be led back again by the spring force.

12. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking bar (R) is led back again by the spring force upon removal of the denture after moving the locking bar (R) upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) against the force of at least one spring (F), and wherein the locking bar (R) is moved again against the force of the at least one spring (F) during insertion of the denture by the action of inclined guide faces, wherein the locking bar (R) is then again led back by the spring force in case the denture is fully inserted.

13. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the movable parts are secured against falling out in the direction of the spring (F) by the locking device (A) itself, by a sleeve shaped screw (Sch1) inserted in the direction of the shifting motion of the locking bar (R) or by screw (Sch2, Sch3) inserted from the basal direction and wherein the disassembly is performed by pressing in of the locking device (A) against the spring force acting onto the locking device (A) through limit stop faces or by removing of the screw (Sch1, Sch2, Sch3).

14. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the fixedly seated element is formed by a web

- extension or by a web (S), wherein parts of the denture framed or of the casing (G) can engage in guide grooves.

15. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that a sleeve (H) is provided for guiding of the locking bar (R) through the prosthetic body.

16. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the diameter of the pushbutton (D) is of the same size or larger as the diameter of the locking bar (R), wherein the pushbutton (D) and the locking bar (R) form a common part.

17. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the spring (F) is disposed between the locking bar (R) and the casing (G).

18. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the individual construction parts are formed as confection parts out of a member selected from the group consisting of dental alloy, titanium, a spring material and plastic.

19. (cancelled) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant;

a locking bar (R) supported slidably perpendicular to a removal direction of a denture;

a spring (F), wherein the locking bar (R) is supported by the force of the spring (F) under regions of a fixedly seated element (S) connected to the tooth crown or the tooth implant;

a pushbutton (D), wherein the locking bar (R) with parts of the locking bar (R) effective for the locking is removable out of these regions against a spring force by actuation of a pushbutton (D) acting upon the locking bar (R);

a locking device (A) furnished for the locking bar (R), wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) by a spring force acting in the direction of a shift motion of the locking bar (R) or by the motion of the locking bar (R) itself such that the locking device effects slight lifting of the connection element in removal direction of the denture based on the operation of limit stop faces.

20. (currently amended) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant; a locking device (A) to be placed on the fixedly seated element (S) and having a first limit stop face and having a second limit stop face (14); a spring (F) a locking bar (R) supported slidable in a first direction and having a third limit stop face (6) and a third limit stop plane (15), wherein the third limit stop face (6) , wherein the third limit stop face (6) is

alternatively engageable with the first limit stop face and with the second limit stop face (14) and wherein the locking bar (R) is supported by the force of the spring (F);

a pushbutton (D) acting upon the locking bar (R), wherein the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) is engaged with the second limit stop face (14) when the pushbutton (D) is depressed, wherein the third limit stop face (6) remains engaged with the second limit stop face (14) upon release of the push button (D), and wherein the third limit stop face (6) becomes engaged with the first limit stop face upon placing of the locking device (A) onto the fixedly seated element (S), and

wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) in the direction of the third limit stop face (6) engaging the second limit stop face (14) against a force of the spring (F) such that [[the]] the spring (F), the locking bar (R) and the pushbutton (D) become slightly lifted in a removal direction of the denture disposed substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

21. (previously presented) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants, comprising a locking bar (R) carrying a pushbutton (D), wherein the locking bar (R) is supported slidable in a first direction, and wherein the locking bar (R) comprises a bore hole (1) and parts (7) with a side flattenings (9), and wherein the parts (7) comprise a limit stop (6),

a spring (F) disposed inside the locking bar (R),

a bolt (B) having a side disposed at the spring (F) and an opposite side with an inclined face, wherein the spring (F) and the bolt (B) are guided in the bore hole (1) of the locking bar (R),

a locking device (A) shaped like a plate and surrounding the bolt (B) and having an extension (4) and an inclined face engaging with the inclined face of the bolt (B),

a casing (G) shaped like a box and having a recess (5) and a bar eye (8),

wherein the casing (G) contains the locking bar (R) with the pushbutton (D), the spring (F), the bolt (B) and the locking device (A), and wherein the casing (G) is attachable at a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant,

and wherein the locking device (A) is supported in the casing (G) that the locking device (A) essentially can perform a motion in a second direction disposed perpendicular to the first direction,

wherein the extension (4) of the locking device (A) is disposed in the recess (5) of the casing (G) and thus secures the locking device (A) and the locking bar (R) against rotation,

wherein the locking bar (R) is guided inside the casing (G),

wherein the parts (7) of the locking bar (R) are disposed between the locking device (A) and the fixedly seated element (S) and wherein the locking bar (R) together with the parts (7) move in the first direction upon a pushing of the pushbutton (D) in order to cover the bar eye (8) completely by the side flattenings (9) of the locking bar (R),
and wherein the limit stop (6) of the locking bar (R) moves from the limit stop face (101) to the limit stop (14) releasing the locking device (A) before the spring (F) is compressed,
and wherein after the spring (F) is compressed, the pushbutton (D) transfers horizontal motion to the bolt (B),
and wherein the bolt (B) pushes the locking device (A) in the second direction toward the fixedly seated element (S),
and wherein the casing (G) with the locking bar (R), with the spring (F), with the bolt (B) and with the locking device (A) is removed away from the fixedly seated element (S),
and wherein the limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) engages the limit stop (14).

22. (previously presented) The connection element according to claim 21

wherein the pushbutton (D) transfers motion in the first direction to the bolt (B) upon compressing the spring (F);
wherein the locking device (A) includes a basal limit stop face (11) and a second limit stop face (14);

wherein the parts (7) of the locking bar (R) are disposed between the locking device (A) and the fixedly seated element (S);
wherein a third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) moves from a first limit stop face (101) to a second limit stop face (14) for releasing the locking device (A);
wherein the bolt (B) moving in the first direction pushes the locking device (A) in the second direction toward the fixedly seated element (S).

23. (cancelled) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising
a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant;
a locking device (A) to be placed on the fixedly seated element (S) and having a first limit stop face (101) and having a second limit stop face (14);
a spring (F);
a locking bar (R) supported slid able in a first direction and having a third limit stop face (6), wherein the third limit stop face (6) is alternatively engage able with the first limit stop face (101) and with the second limit stop face (14) and wherein the locking bar (R) is supported by the force of the spring (F);
a pushbutton (D) acting upon the locking bar (R), wherein the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) is engaged with the second limit stop face (14) when the pushbutton (D) is depressed, wherein the third limit stop face (6) remains engaged with the second limit stop face (14) upon release of the push button (D), and wherein the third limit stop face (6) becomes

engaged with the first limit stop face (101) upon placing of the locking device (A) onto the fixedly seated element (S), and wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) with the third limit stop face (6) engaging the second limit stop face (14) against a force of the spring (F) such that the spring (F), the locking bar (R) and the pushbutton (D) become lifted by a predetermined amount in a removal direction of the denture disposed substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

24. (cancelled) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant; a locking device (A) to be placed on the fixedly seated element (S) and having a first limit stop face (101) and having a second limit stop face (14); a spring (F); a locking bar (R) supported slid able in a first direction and having a third limit stop face (6), wherein the third limit stop face (6) is alternatively engage able with the first limit stop face (101) and with the second limit stop face (14); a pushbutton (D) supported by the force of the spring (F) and acting upon the locking bar (R), wherein the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) is engaged with the second limit stop face (14) when the pushbutton (D) is depressed, wherein the third limit stop face (6) remains engaged with the second limit stop face (14) upon release of the push button (D), and

wherein the third limit stop face (6) becomes engaged with the first limit stop face (101) upon placing of the locking device (A) onto the fixedly seated element (S), and

wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) with the third limit stop face (6) engaging the second limit stop face (14) against a force of the spring (F) such that the spring (F), the locking bar (R) and the pushbutton (D) become lifted by a predetermined amount in a removal direction of the denture disposed substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

25. (cancelled) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant; a locking device (A) to be placed on the fixedly seated element (S) and having a first limit stop face (101) and having a second limit stop face (14) each disposed perpendicular to a first direction and having a first limit stop plane (111) and having a second limit stop plane (114) each disposed perpendicular to a second direction disposed perpendicular to the first direction;

a spring (F);

a locking bar (R) supported slid able in a first direction and having a third limit stop face (6) and a third limit stop plane (15), wherein the third limit

stop face (6) is alternatively engage able with the first limit stop face (101) and with the second limit stop face (14) and wherein the third limit stop plane (15) is alternatively engage able with the first limit stop plane (111) and with the second limit stop plane (114);

a pushbutton (D) supported by the force of the spring (F) and acting upon the locking bar (R), wherein the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) is engaged with the second limit stop face (14) when the pushbutton (D) is depressed, wherein the third limit stop face (6) remains engaged with the second limit stop face (14) upon release of the push button (D), and wherein the third limit stop face (6) becomes engaged with the first limit stop face (101) upon placing of the locking device (A) onto the fixedly seated element (S), and

wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) with the third limit stop face (6) moving in the first direction and then in the second direction for engaging the second limit stop face (14) and with the third limit stop plane (15) moving in the first direction and then in the second direction for engaging the second limit stop face (114)

against a force of the spring (F) such that the spring (F), the locking bar (R) and the pushbutton (D) become lifted by an amount substantially corresponding to the distance between the first limit stop plane (111) and the second limit stop plane (114) in the second direction.

26. (currently amended) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to a support, comprising
a casing (G),
a locking device (A) disposed in the casing (G) and slidable ~~slid-able~~ in a ~~second~~ defined direction and having an extension, and having a first limit stop face (101), and a second limit stop face (14) and to be seated on a fixedly seated element (S) between the extension and a wall of the casing (G) and having an inclined face (10);
a spring (F);
a bolt (B) supported by the spring (F) and having a counter-inclined face engaging the inclined face (10) under pressure of the spring (F) while the locking device (A) locks tight to the fixedly seated element (S);
a locking bar (R) movable in a first direction disposed at an angle to the second direction and supported by the spring (F) and having a third limit stop face (6) engaging the second limit stop face (14) when the locking bar (R) is pressed against the spring force for releasing the locking device (A) and for the locking bar (R) releasing the fixedly seated element (S).

27. (previously presented) The connection element according to Claim 26 wherein
the locking bar (R) comprises a pushbutton (D), a bore hole (1) and parts (7) having a side flattenings (9);

and wherein the parts (7) are disposed between the locking device (A) and a fixedly seated element (S);
and wherein the third limit stop face (6) contacts the first limit stop face (101) during locking,
and wherein the locking bar (R) is supported slidable in the first direction.

28. (previously presented) The connection element according to Claim 26 wherein the casing (G) comprises a recess (5) and a bar eye (8), wherein the locking bar (R) is guided inside the bar eye (8) of the casing (G);
and wherein the casing (G) is attachable in the first direction at the fixedly seated element (S);
and wherein the locking device (A) is supported in the locking bar (R) and wherein the locking device (A) essentially performs a motion only in the second direction;
wherein the extension (4) of the locking device (A) is disposed in the recess (5) of the casing (G) and thereby secures the locking device (A) and the locking bar (R) against rotation.

29. (previously presented) The connection element according to Claim 26 wherein upon pushing of the pushbutton (D), the locking bar (R) together with the parts (7) and with the third limit stop (6) move in the first direction from the first limit stop face (101) to the second limit stop face (14) and removing parts (7) disposed in a way of removing the locking bar

(R) from the fixedly seated element (S) in order to allow the locking bar (R) to slide out of the bar eye (8) completely through side flattenings (9) of the locking bar (R).

30. (previously presented) The connection element according to Claim 26 wherein

the bolt (B) comprises a first end disposed in the area of the pushbutton (D) and a second end carrying a counter-inclined face, wherein the spring (F) and the bolt (B) are guided in a bore hole (1) of the locking bar (R);

and wherein the pushbutton (D) upon a compressing of the spring (F) transfers motion in the first direction to the bolt (B).

31. (previously presented) The connection element according to Claim 26 wherein the locking device (A) is plate-shaped, and wherein the locking device (A) surrounds the bolt (B), and wherein the locking device (A) comprises an inclined face engaging to the counter-inclined face of the bolt (B), and wherein the bolt (B) pushes the locking device (A) in the second direction;

and wherein the casing (G) with the locking bar (R), with the spring (F), with the bolt (B) and with the locking device (A) is pulled out in the second direction from the fixedly seated element (S) of the support.

32. (cancelled) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising

a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant and having a second basal limit stop face (102);

a locking device (A) having a first basal limit stop face (11) and having a locked position relative to the seated element (S) and having a removal position relative to the seated element (S) for allowing separation of the locking device (A) from the second basal limit stop face (102);

a spring (F);

a locking bar (R) having side flattenings (9) and supported slidable in a first direction, wherein the locking bar locks the fixedly seated element in a locked position to the locking bar (R) and wherein the side flattenings (9) of the locking bar (R) unlock the fixedly seated element in a removal position from the fixedly seated element (S);

a pushbutton (D) supported by the force of the spring (F) and acting upon the locking bar (R), wherein the first direction is disposed parallel to a plane of the first basal limit stop face (11) and to a plane of the second basal limit stop face (102) and wherein pressing of the pushbutton (D) moves the locking device (A) from the locked position to the removal position..

and

wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) against a force of the spring (F) in a direction perpendicular to the first basal limit face (11) such that the spring (F), the locking bar (R) and the pushbutton (D) become lifted by a predetermined amount in a removal

direction of the denture disposed substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

33. (cancelled) The connection element according to claim 31 further comprising

a casing (G) having a recess (5);

an extension (4) of the locking device (A) disposed in the recess (5) of the casing (G) for securing the locking device (A) and the locking bar (R) against rotation relative to the casing (G).

34. (cancelled) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising

a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant;

a casing (G) formed for engaging the fixedly seated element (S);

a locking device (A) having a locked position relative to the seated element (S) and having a removal position relative to the seated element (S) for allowing separation of the locking device (A) from the fixedly seated element (S) and wherein the locking device (A) is supported in the casing (G) as to allow only a motion of the locking device (A) in a second direction;

a spring (F) having a force;

a locking bar (R) supported in the casing (G) slidable in a first direction disposed perpendicular to the second direction;
a pushbutton (D) supported by the force of the spring (F) and acting upon the locking bar (R), and wherein pressing of the pushbutton (D) moves the locking device (A) from a locked position to a removal position;
and
wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) against a force of the spring (F) in the second direction such that the spring (F), the locking bar (R) and the pushbutton (D) become lifted by a predetermined amount in the second direction.

35. (cancelled) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising

a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant;
a spring (F) having a first end and having a second end;
a locking bar (R) supported slidable in a first direction, wherein the locking bar (R) locks the fixedly seated element (S) in a locked position to the locking bar (R) and wherein the locking bar (R) unlocks the fixedly seated element in a removal position from the locking bar (R);
a pushbutton (D) supported by the force of the first end of the spring (F) and acting upon the locking bar (R), wherein pressing of the pushbutton

(D) moves the locking bar (R) from the locked position to the removal position;

a bolt (B) supported by the force of the second end of the spring (F) and acting indirectly on the fixedly seated element (S);

and

wherein the bolt (B) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) against the force of the spring (F) in the first direction of the locking bar (R) by a first predetermined amount relative to a locking position such that indirectly the spring (F), the locking bar (R) and the pushbutton (D) become lifted relative to the fixedly seated element (S) by a second predetermined amount in a removal direction of the denture disposed substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

36. (cancelled) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising
a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant;
a spring (F) having a first end and having a second end;
a locking bar (R) supported slidable in a first direction, wherein the locking bar (R) locks the fixedly seated element (S) in locked position to the locking bar (R) and wherein the locking bar (R) unlocks the fixedly seated element in a removal position from the locking bar (R);

a pushbutton (D) supported by the force of the first end of the spring (F) and acting upon the locking bar (R), wherein pressing of the pushbutton (D) initially presses on the first end of the spring (F);

a bolt (B) supported by the force of the second end of the spring (F) and after compression of the spring (F) being acted upon directly by the pushbutton (D) and disposed slidably in the locking bar (R);

and

wherein the bolt (B) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) against a force of the spring (F) in the first direction by a first predetermined amount relative to the locking position such that indirectly the spring (F), the locking bar (R) and the pushbutton (D) become lifted relative to the fixedly seated element (S) by a second predetermined amount in a removal direction of the denture disposed substantially perpendicular to the sliding direction.

37. (previously presented) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising a fixedly seated element (S) connected to a tooth crown or a tooth implant; a spring (F) having a first end and having a second end; a locking bar (R) supported slidable in a first direction, wherein the locking bar (R) locks the fixedly seated element (S) in a locked position to the

locking bar (R) and wherein the locking bar (R) unlocks the fixedly seated element in a removal position from the locking bar (R);

a pushbutton (D) supported by the force of the first end of the spring (F) and acting upon the locking bar (R), wherein pressing of the pushbutton (D) initially presses on the first end of the spring (F);

a bolt (B) having a first end facing the pushbutton (D) and having a second end furnishing a counter-inclined face, wherein the bolt (B) is supported by the force of the second end of the spring (F), and wherein, after compression of the spring (F), the said first end of the bolt (B) is being acted upon directly by the pushbutton (D) and wherein the bolt (B) is disposed slidably in the locking bar (R);

a locking device (A) having a locked position relative to the seated element (S) and having a removal position relative to the fixedly seated element (S) for allowing separation of the locking device (A) from the fixedly seated element (S) and having an inclined face (10) for facing the counter-inclined face of the bolt (B) such that a pressing of the pushbutton (D) induces a pressing of the counter-inclined face of the bolt (B) onto the inclined face (10) of the locking device (A) which in turn induces a shifting of the locking device (A) away from the locking bar (R) in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction and places the locking device (A) and the locking bar (R) into the removal position;

and wherein a pressing of the locking bar (R) in the second direction toward the fixedly seated element (S) induces the inclined face (10) of the locking device (A) to press against the counter-inclined face of the bolt (B) and in

turn induces the locking device (A) and the locking bar (R) to move into the locking position.

38. (cancelled) A method for an attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising connecting a fixedly seated element (S) to a tooth crown or a tooth implant; furnishing a locking device (A) to be placed on the fixedly seated element (S) and having a first limit stop face (101) and having a second limit stop face (14); placing a spring (F) into a locking bar (R) supported slidable in a first direction and having a third limit stop face (6), wherein the third limit stop face (6) is alternatively engageable with the first limit stop face (101) and with the second limit stop face (14); engaging the locking bar (R) with the locking device (A); supporting a pushbutton (D) by the force of the spring (F); acting with the pushbutton upon the locking bar (R), wherein the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) is engaged with the second limit stop face (14) of the locking device (A) when the pushbutton (D) is depressed, wherein the third limit stop face (6) remains engaged with the second limit stop face (14) of the locking device (A) upon release of the push button (D), and

wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) in the direction of the third limit stop face (6) engaging the second limit stop face (14) against a force of the spring (F) such that the spring (F), the locking bar (R) and the pushbutton (D) become lifted by a predetermined amount in a removal direction of the denture disposed substantially perpendicular to the first direction; and

placing and pressing the locking device (A) onto the fixedly seated element (S) whereupon the third limit stop face (6) becomes engaged with the first limit stop face (101), and wherein the locking device (A) shifts the locking bar (R) into a locking position for locking the fixedly seated element to the locking bar (R).

(19B)

39. (previously presented) A method for an attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising connecting a fixedly seated element (S) to a tooth crown or a tooth implant; furnishing a locking device (A) to be placed on the fixedly seated element (S) and having a first limit stop face (101) and having a second limit stop face (14) and having a first limit stop plane (111) and having a second limit stop plane (114);

placing a spring (F) into a locking bar (R) supported slidable in a first direction and having a third limit stop face (6) and having a third limit stop plane (15), wherein the third limit stop face (6) is alternatively engageable with the first limit stop face (101) and with the second limit stop face (14) and wherein the third limit stop plane (15) is alternatively engageable with the first limit stop plane (111) and with the second limit stop plane (114);
engaging the locking bar (R) with the locking device (A);
supporting a pushbutton (D) by the force of the spring (F);
pushing the pushbutton upon the locking bar (R) for first moving the locking bar R in a first direction from a neighboring position of the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) and the first limit stop face (101) of the locking device (A) and from a neighboring position of the third limit stop plane (15) of the locking bar (R) and the first limit stop plane (111) of the locking device (A);
moving the locking device (A) in a second direction disposed perpendicular to the first direction to a neighboring position of the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) and the second limit stop face (14) of the locking device (A) and to a neighboring position of the third limit stop plane (15) of the locking bar (R) and the second limit stop plane (114) of the locking device (A);

removing the locking bar (R), the locking device (A), the pushbutton (D), and the spring (F) from the fixedly seating element (S).

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 39 further comprising

pressing the locking bar (R), the locking device (A), the pushbutton (D), and the spring (F) against the fixedly seated element (S);

moving the locking device (A) in the second direction from a neighboring position of the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) and the second limit stop face (14) of the locking device (A) and from a neighboring position of the third limit stop plane (15) of the locking bar (R) and the second limit stop plane (114) of the locking device (A);

moving the locking bar R in the first direction to a neighboring position of the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) and the first limit stop face (101) of the locking device (A) and to a neighboring position of the third limit stop plane (15) of the locking bar (R) and the first limit stop plane (111) of the locking device (A).

41. (previously presented) A method of using removable tooth dentures comprising

connecting a fixedly seated element (S) to a tooth crown or a tooth implant;

furnishing a locking device (A) to be placed on the fixedly seated element (S) and having a first limit stop face (101) and having a second limit stop face (14) and having a first limit stop plane (111) and having a second limit stop plane (114);

placing a spring (F) into a locking bar (R) supported slidable in a first direction and having a third limit stop face (6) and having a third limit stop plane (15), wherein the locking bar (R), the locking device (A), and the spring (S) form a connecting piece;

moving the locking bar (R) in a first direction from a neighboring position of the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) and the first limit stop face (101) of the locking device (A) and from a neighboring position of the third limit stop plane (15) of the locking bar (R) and the first limit stop plane (111) of the locking device (A);

moving the locking device (A) in a second direction disposed perpendicular to the first direction to a neighboring position of the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) and the second limit stop face (14) of the locking device (A) and to a neighboring position of the third limit stop plane (15) of

the locking bar (R) and the second limit stop plane (114) of the locking device (A);

removing the connecting piece from the fixedly seating element (S);

pressing the connecting piece against the fixedly seated element (S);

moving the locking device (A) in the second direction from a neighboring position of the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) and the second limit stop face (14) of the locking device (A) and from a neighboring position of the third limit stop plane (15) of the locking bar (R) and the second limit stop plane (114) of the locking device (A);

moving the locking bar R in the first direction to a neighboring position of the third limit stop face (6) of the locking bar (R) and the first limit stop face (101) of the locking device (A) and to a neighboring position of the third limit stop plane (15) of the locking bar (R) and the first limit stop plane (111) of the locking device (A).